



Patent Application No. 10/650,505  
Attorney Docket No. 81872.0051

IPAFS

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

INOMATA et al.

Serial No: 10/650,505

Confirmation No.: 6972

Filed: August 27, 2003

For: DRY ETCHING APPARATUS, DRY  
ETCHING METHOD, AND  
CLEANING METHOD ADOPTED IN  
DRY ETCHING APPARATUS

Art Unit: 1763

Examiner: Allan W. Olsen

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on  
01/20/06  
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Diane Zynn  
Name  
  
Signature  
01/20/06  
Date

### TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

1.  The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application other than a continued prosecution application, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).
2.  The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed *after* the period specified in §1.97(b), but *before* the mailing date of a final action under §1.113, or a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, whichever occurs first. A statement specified in §1.97(e) or a fee set forth in §1.17(p) is included. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c).

### **§1.97(e) STATEMENT**

I, the person signing below, state:

that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in the attached communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and that the communication is dated not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

OR

that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart

foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).

**OR FEE**

Please charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(c) (\$180.00) to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this petition is enclosed.

3.  The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed *after* the period specified in §1.97(c), but before, or simultaneously with the payment of the issue fee. A statement specified in §1.97(e) and a fee set forth in §1.17(p) are included. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).

**§1.97(e) STATEMENT**

I, the person signing below, state:

that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in the attached communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and that the communication is dated not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

**OR**

that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).

**AND FEE**

Attached is a fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(d). (\$180.00).

4.  If it should be determined that for any reason either an insufficient fee or an excessive has been paid, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment necessary to ensure consideration of the information disclosure statement for the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. **A copy of this petition is enclosed.**

5.  A list of 16 reference(s) is in the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

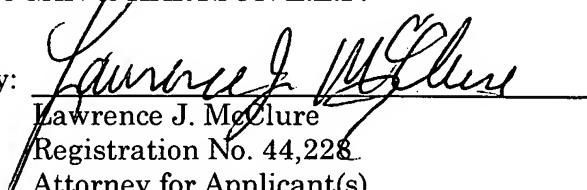
**NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE REFERENCES**

- Enclosed is a search report for a counterpart application. The search report Examiner has provided comments on the relevancy of any non-English language references cited in the search report.
- The specification incorporates comments on the relevancy of Non-English language references.
- Set forth below are comments provided by the applicant's home country counsel on the relevancy of non-English language references:

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: January 20, 2006

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FORM PTO-1449		Docket Number (Optional) 81872.0051	Application Number 10/650,505
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION		Applicant Inomata et al.	
JAN 24 2003 (use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date 08/27/03	Group Art Unit 1763

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,771,213	09-1998	Higashinakagawa et al.	313	402	
	5,770,123	06-1998	Hatakeyama et al.	264	1.21	
	5,868,952	02-1999	Hatakeyama et al.	216	66	
	5,968,274	10-1999	Lee et al.	118	723R	
	6,132,805	10-2000	Moslehi	427	248.1	
	6,171,351	01-2001	Schroder et al.	51	295	
	6,214,161	04-2001	Becker et al.	156	345.48	
	6,261,406	07-2001	Jurgensen et al.	156	345.3	
	6,418,941	07-2002	Arita et al.	134	1.2	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	YES	NO
						Abstract		
	JP 61238981 A	10-1986	Japan			Abstract		
	JP 02106925 A	04-1990	Japan			Abstract		
	JP 11317396 A	11-1999	Japan			Abstract		
	JP 62277730 A	12-1987	Japan			Abstract		
	JP 62047132 A	02-1987	Japan			Abstract		
	JP 59219464 A	12-1984	Japan			Abstract		
	JP 09-102625	04-1997	Japan			Abstract		

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**


EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.	